

Table 12. Low-birthweight live births, according to mother's detailed race, Hispanic origin, and smoking status: United States, selected years 1970–99

[Data are based on the National Vital Statistics System]

Birthweight, race, Hispanic origin of mother, and smoking status of mother	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Low birthweight (less than 2,500 grams)	Percent of live births ¹											
All races	7.93	7.38	6.84	6.75	6.97	7.22	7.28	7.32	7.39	7.51	7.57	7.62
White	6.85	6.27	5.72	5.65	5.70	5.98	6.11	6.22	6.34	6.46	6.52	6.57
Black	13.90	13.19	12.69	12.65	13.25	13.34	13.24	13.13	13.01	13.01	13.05	13.11
American Indian or Alaska Native	7.97	6.41	6.44	5.86	6.11	6.42	6.45	6.61	6.49	6.75	6.81	7.15
Asian or Pacific Islander	---	---	6.68	6.16	6.45	6.55	6.81	6.90	7.07	7.23	7.42	7.45
Chinese	6.67	5.29	5.21	4.98	4.69	4.91	4.76	5.29	5.03	5.06	5.34	5.19
Japanese	9.03	7.47	6.60	6.21	6.16	6.53	6.91	7.26	7.27	6.82	7.50	7.95
Filipino	10.02	8.08	7.40	6.95	7.30	6.99	7.77	7.83	7.92	8.33	8.23	8.30
Hawaiian and part Hawaiian	---	---	7.23	6.49	7.24	6.76	7.20	6.84	6.77	7.20	7.15	7.69
Other Asian or Pacific Islander	---	---	6.83	6.19	6.65	6.89	7.06	7.05	7.42	7.54	7.76	7.76
Hispanic origin ^{2,3}	---	---	6.12	6.16	6.06	6.24	6.25	6.29	6.28	6.42	6.44	6.38
Mexican	---	---	5.62	5.77	5.55	5.77	5.80	5.81	5.86	5.97	5.97	5.94
Puerto Rican	---	---	8.95	8.69	8.99	9.23	9.13	9.41	9.24	9.39	9.68	9.30
Cuban	---	---	5.62	6.02	5.67	6.18	6.27	6.50	6.46	6.78	6.50	6.80
Central and South American	---	---	5.76	5.68	5.84	5.94	6.02	6.20	6.03	6.26	6.47	6.38
Other and unknown Hispanic	---	---	6.96	6.83	6.87	7.51	7.54	7.55	7.68	7.93	7.59	7.63
White, non-Hispanic ²	---	---	5.67	5.60	5.61	5.92	6.06	6.20	6.36	6.47	6.55	6.64
Black, non-Hispanic ²	---	---	12.71	12.61	13.32	13.43	13.34	13.21	13.12	13.11	13.17	13.23
Cigarette smoker ⁴	---	---	---	---	11.25	11.84	12.28	12.18	12.13	12.06	12.01	12.06
Nonsmoker ⁴	---	---	---	---	6.14	6.56	6.71	6.79	6.91	7.07	7.18	7.21
Very low birthweight (less than 1,500 grams)	Percent of live births ¹											
All races	1.17	1.16	1.15	1.21	1.27	1.33	1.33	1.35	1.37	1.42	1.45	1.45
White	0.95	0.92	0.90	0.94	0.95	1.01	1.02	1.06	1.09	1.13	1.15	1.15
Black	2.40	2.40	2.48	2.71	2.92	2.96	2.96	2.97	2.99	3.04	3.08	3.14
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.98	0.95	0.92	1.01	1.01	1.05	1.10	1.10	1.21	1.19	1.24	1.26
Asian or Pacific Islander	---	---	0.92	0.85	0.87	0.86	0.93	0.91	0.99	1.05	1.10	1.08
Chinese	0.80	0.52	0.66	0.57	0.51	0.63	0.58	0.67	0.64	0.74	0.75	0.68
Japanese	1.48	0.89	0.94	0.84	0.73	0.74	0.92	0.87	0.81	0.78	0.84	0.86
Filipino	1.08	0.93	0.99	0.86	1.05	0.95	1.19	1.13	1.20	1.29	1.35	1.41
Hawaiian and part Hawaiian	---	---	1.05	1.03	0.97	1.14	1.20	0.94	0.97	1.41	1.53	1.41
Other Asian or Pacific Islander	---	---	0.96	0.91	0.92	0.89	0.93	0.91	1.04	1.07	1.12	1.09
Hispanic origin ^{2,3}	---	---	0.98	1.01	1.03	1.06	1.08	1.11	1.12	1.13	1.15	1.14
Mexican	---	---	0.92	0.97	0.92	0.97	0.99	1.01	1.01	1.02	1.02	1.04
Puerto Rican	---	---	1.29	1.30	1.62	1.66	1.63	1.79	1.70	1.85	1.86	1.86
Cuban	---	---	1.02	1.18	1.20	1.23	1.31	1.19	1.35	1.36	1.33	1.49
Central and South American	---	---	0.99	1.01	1.05	1.02	1.06	1.13	1.14	1.17	1.23	1.15
Other and unknown Hispanic	---	---	1.01	0.96	1.09	1.23	1.29	1.28	1.48	1.35	1.38	1.32
White, non-Hispanic ²	---	---	0.86	0.90	0.93	1.00	1.01	1.04	1.08	1.12	1.15	1.15
Black, non-Hispanic ²	---	---	2.46	2.66	2.93	2.99	2.99	2.98	3.02	3.05	3.11	3.18
Cigarette smoker ⁴	---	---	---	---	1.73	1.77	1.81	1.85	1.85	1.83	1.87	1.91
Nonsmoker ⁴	---	---	---	---	1.18	1.28	1.30	1.31	1.35	1.40	1.44	1.43

--- Data not available.

¹Excludes live births with unknown birthweight. Percent based on live births with known birthweight.

²Trend data for Hispanics and non-Hispanics are affected by expansion of the reporting area for an Hispanic-origin item on the birth certificate and by immigration.

These two factors affect numbers of events, composition of the Hispanic population, and maternal and infant health characteristics. The number of States in the reporting area increased from 22 in 1980, to 23 and the District of Columbia (DC) in 1983–87, 30 and DC in 1988, 47 and DC in 1989, 48 and DC in 1990, 49 and DC in 1991–92, and 50 and DC in 1993 and later years (see Appendix I, National Vital Statistics System).

³Includes mothers of all races.

⁴Percent based on live births with known smoking status of mother and known birthweight. Includes data for 43 States and the District of Columbia (DC) in 1989, 45 States and DC in 1990, 46 States and DC in 1991–93, 46 States, DC, and New York City (NYC) in 1994–98, and 48 States, DC, and NYC in 1999. Excludes data for California and South Dakota (1989–99), Indiana and New York (1989–98), New York City (1989–93), Oklahoma (1989–90), and Louisiana and Nebraska (1989), which did not require the reporting of mother's tobacco use during pregnancy on the birth certificate (see Appendix I).

NOTES: The race groups, white, black, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Asian or Pacific Islander, include persons of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin. Conversely, persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Data for additional years are available (see Appendix III).

SOURCES: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System; Ventura SJ, Martin JA, Curtin SC, Menacker F, Hamilton BE. Births: Final Data for 1999. National vital statistics reports; vol 49, no 1. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics, 2001. (in press); Births: Final data for each data year 1997–98. National vital statistics reports. Hyattsville, Maryland; Final natality statistics for each data year 1970–96. Monthly vital statistics report. Hyattsville, Maryland.